

Week of May 5, 2003: Maine DOT Flash Facts

Topic: Motorcycle Safety

Monday:

Opener: Spring is finally here, and that means motorcyclists are now out on the roads. After the break, learn about Maine DOT suggestions for preventing motorcycle collisions.

Flash Facts:

Approximately 500 motorcycle crashes occur in Maine each year with an average of 17 fatalities. Here are the leading types of motorcycle crashes:

- 25% of motorcycle crashes are run off the road type, resulting in 40% of the fatalities.
- 22% of motorcycle crashes occur at intersections. Remember, motorcyclists are difficult to spot, especially at intersections.
- 22% of motorcycle crashes are rear-end collisions. All drivers must maintain a safe following distance.

Be a Road Model: be cautious around motorcycles

Wednesday:

Opener: Motorcyclists enjoy the great open feel of the road. However, that exposure leaves the riders more vulnerable. After the break, learn some interesting facts from the Maine DOT about motorcycle collisions.

Flash Facts:

Motorcyclists share the road with all other vehicle types and their smaller size makes them vulnerable.

- The highest motorcycle crash rate is for inexperienced, younger riders—especially those under 20.
- 75% of Maine motorcyclists involved in fatal crashes were not wearing helmets while riding and they were three times more likely to have a head injury.
- Injured helmet users stayed in the hospital less than half the time as those not wearing a helmet.
- More than 20% of injured motorcycle passengers required hospitalization.

Be a Road Model: wear a helmet when riding a motorcycle

Friday:

Opener: About 500 motorcycle crashes occur in Maine each year. Why do these crashes occur?

Flash Facts:

Like other vehicle crashes, most motorcycle crashes are preventable. Leading factors that lead to motorcycle crashes are:

- Illegal/Unsafe Speed is a factor in about 20% of the collisions, and responsible for over 40% of the fatalities.
- Driver Inattention and Distraction is a lead factor in another 20% of crashes. Pay full attention to the driving task.
- Driver inexperience is a factor for about 13% of the motorcyclists involved in crashes –drive within your capabilities.

When riding your motorcycle...Be a Road Model